REMARKS

Claims 1-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 5-71821. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that JP 5-71821 fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, JP 5-71821 fails to disclose a liquid crystal panel that includes, *inter alia*, a liquid crystal layer that comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin, where the cross-linked resin comprises a cross-linked structural part adhered to a liquid crystal layer contacting surface (i.e., an adhered, cross-linked structural part) and a terminal part rising from the liquid crystal layer contacting surface (i.e., a rising terminal part), as defined in independent Claim 1. Similarly, JP 5-71821 also fails to disclose the method for making a liquid crystal panel of independent Claim 19, which includes similar features to those mentioned with regard to Claim 1.

One example of the liquid crystal layer of Claims 1 and 19 is shown in Applicants' Figures 3A and 3B, where Figure 3A shows compounds 5 within a liquid crystal layer, where the compounds are in an un-linked state, and Figure 3B shows the compounds in the cross-linked state, after UV irradiation has been applied. More specifically, in the un-linked state of Figure 3A, the cross-linkable structural parts 31 are not cross-linked yet, and the terminal parts 32 and the liquid crystal 1 are in the horizontally aligned state along the liquid crystal layer contacting surface 8 of one of the substrates. However, there is nothing adhered to this contacting surface 8 yet. Then, after applying UV irradiation, the cross-linked state of Figure 3B results. In particular, Figure 3B shows how the cross-linked resin

comprises a cross-linked structural part (33) that is adhered to a liquid crystal layer contacting surface 8, which, in this embodiment, is a surface of one of the substrates (i.e., an adhered, cross-linked structural part) and a terminal part 34 rising from the liquid crystal layer contacting surface 8 (i.e., a rising terminal part). Such structure serves to align the liquid crystal 1 vertically when no voltage is present.

In contrast, JP 5-71821 fails to disclose the cross-linked structure just described, which includes a cross-linked structural part that is adhered to a liquid crystal layer contacting surface (i.e., an adhered, cross-linked structural part) and a terminal part rising from the liquid crystal layer contacting surface (i.e., a rising terminal part). Instead, there is no disclosure of the specific cross-linked structure of the present invention, only a general mention of photopolymerization. *See* paragraph [0012], computer translation of JP 5-71821 (attached). More specifically, JP 5-71821 fails to show, *inter alia*, the claimed cross-linked resin that includes an adhered, cross-linked structural part and a rising terminal part. In contrast, Figure 3 of JP 5-71821 merely shows pools of liquid crystal 6b confined between "macromolecules" 6a. There is no disclosure of any cross-linked structural parts being "adhered" to a contacting surface (where, the Examiner is reminded, the term "adhered" means more than merely contacting, but that one part is held by or stuck to something). Further, there is no disclosure of any cross-linked terminal parts "rising" from the contacting surface (such as shown in Applicants' Figure 3B as represented by rising terminal parts 34). Accordingly, as JP 5-71821 fails to show all of the features of

independent Claims 1 and 19, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claims 1 and 19.

Claims 2-18 and 20-35 all depend, directly or indirectly, from either independent Claim 1 or from independent Claim 19, and therefore include all of the features of either Claim 1 or Claim 19, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of dependent Claims 2-18 and 20-35 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claims 1 and 19.

Additionally, Applicants also respectfully request the withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of Claims 2-18 and 20-35 because the majority of the features defined in these claims are not disclosed in JP 5-71821. Further, the Examiner has not even attempted to point out in JP 5-71821 where any of the features of the dependent claims are disclosed. Accordingly, for this reason also, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of dependent Claims 2-18 and 20-35. If the Examiner maintains this §102(b) rejection of dependent Claims 2-18 and 20-35, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specifically identify the portions of JP 5-71821 that disclose the features defined in each of the dependent claims.

Finally, Applicants have also added new dependent Claims 36 and 37, which further define the adhered, cross-linked structural part and the rising terminal part. Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims are also allowable over JP 5-71821.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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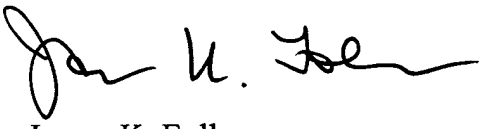
By 

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